

BARNES & THORNBURG

11 South Meridian Street
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 (317) 236-1313

PATENT APPLICATION*IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

Group: Unknown

Attorney

Docket: 25164-67462

Applicant: Chen, et al.

Invention: IN-PRESS PROCESS FOR COATING
 COMPOSITE SUBSTRATES

Serial No: Unknown

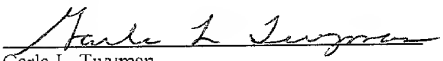
Filed: Herewith (December 20, 2000)

Examiner: Unknown

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
 deposited with the United States Postal Service as first
 class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant
 Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on December 20, 2000


 Garla L. Twyman

Dated. December 20, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the subject application, Applicants request entry
 of the following amendments:

In the Specification

On page 1 after the title and before "Field of the Invention" insert

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No.

09/187,994, filed November 6, 1998, now allowed. --

In the Claims

Delete claims 1-36 and insert the following claims 37-48 in their place:

-- 37. A process for the manufacture of polymer coated composite substrate, said process comprising the steps of forming a chemically crosslinked polymer coating on a compressible mat without heating and

compressing and heating the crosslinked coating and the mat to form the polymer coated composite substrate.

38. The process of claim 37 wherein the compressible mat further comprises a sheet of paper which is glued to the surface of the mat.

39. The process of claim 38 wherein the chemically crosslinked polymer coating is formed on the paper.

40. The process of claim 37 wherein the polymer coated composite substrate is paper and the chemically crosslinked polymer coating is formed on a fiber mat and compressed with the mat as part of a papermaking process.

41. The process of claim 37, 38, 39, or claim 40 wherein the chemically crosslinked polymer is ionically crosslinked.

42. The process of claim 37, 38, 39, or claim 40 wherein the chemically crosslinked polymer is covalently crosslinked.

43. The process of claim 41 wherein the ionically crosslinked polymer has thermosetting functionality.

44. A process for the manufacture of polymer coated composite substrate, said process comprising the steps of forming an ionically crosslinked polymer coating on a compressible mat and

compressing and heating the crosslinked coating and the mat to form the polymer coated composite substrate.

45. The process of claim 44 wherein the compressible mat further comprises a sheet of paper which is glued to the surface of the mat.

46. The process of claim 45 wherein the chemically crosslinked polymer coating is formed on the paper.


47. The process of claim 44 wherein the polymer coated composite substrate is paper and the chemically crosslinked polymer coating is formed on a fiber mat and compressed with the mat as part of a papermaking process.

48. The process of claim 44 wherein the ionically crosslinked polymer has thermosetting functionality. --

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment adding a cross reference to related applications is submitted to make a proper priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the related nonprovisional application. Claims 1-36 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 37-48 have been added and are directed to a process for the manufacture of a polymer coated composite substrate. Support for these claims is found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added by way of addition of these claims. Applicants submit that this application is entitled to favorable consideration, culminating in allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca L. Ball
Registration No. 46,535
Attorney for Applicants

RLB:gl
(317) 231-7511
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
INDS02 RVB 354653v1